THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (e) The National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) procures agricultural commodities directly from farmers and from cooperatives and assists in increasing returns to them. The procurement is generally on the prevailing market rates in various regulated Mandies through open auctions. The rates, therefore, vary from day-to-day and place to place depending upon the timing, demand, supply, quality of the commodity and market prices as well as crop situation.

NAFED also acts as a Public Agency for distribution of some scarce agricultural commodities at reasonable price to protect consumers' interest. NAFED's prices are generally competitive and favourable to farmers as well as consumers. In fixing the selling price, quality of goods is given weightage. The various components or selling price include commodity price, statutory levies, service charges, incidental expenses, warehouse charges, carrying costs; shortages, transportation and selling expenses, etc.

NAFED does not have a chain of retail outlets in the country as the distribution of consumer goods is not its primary objective. It has, however, set up two retail outlets bassically to meet the requirements of its own employees at Lawrence Road and of Government employees in Krishi Bhavan. The latest rates of various items sold in its retail outlets as compared to the market rates and those prevailing in the Super Bazar are given in the Appendix [*See* appendix CXLV Annexure No. 93.] Retails prices of processed foods and eggs were cheapest in the outlets of the NAFED whereas in respect of other grocery items, the rates of NAFED and Super Bazar were more or less the same with minor variations

Suggestion for National Housing Technology Mission

2486. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently concluded seminar on Low Cost Housing passed a resolution for launching a National Housing Technology Mission;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto; and

(c) what were other important recommendations of the seminar and whether these are likely to be accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The other important recommendations of the seminar were as follows:

(i) At least one Building Centre should be set up in every district in the country;

(ii) Housing Advisory Councils should be set up at National State and local levels in every country;

(iii) slum upgradation and environmental improvement programme should be encouraged; and

(iv) A National Institute for Housing Human Settlements should be established;

The recommendations of the Seminar are under consideration of the Government.

Five Day Week in the Offices under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

2487. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the offices under his Ministry have switched over to five-day week system;

(b) if not, which are the offices which have not so far switched over to the five day week system;

(c) whether offices of similar nature are following different pattern in terms of five or six day week; and